

**AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A folding apparatus, comprising:
  - a folding section for folding a web in two so that opposite side edges of the web are in a predetermined positional relationship with respect to each other;
  - a correction section including at least one roller for correcting a moving direction of the web by contacting the web in the folding section;
  - a detecting section for detecting a reference portion of the web to be used as a reference in a web folding operation so as to output positional information regarding a position of the detected reference portion; and
  - a control section for controlling at least one of an inclination angle or a revolution speed of the roller in the correction section and while the roller is in contact with the web based on the positional information so as to bring a positional relationship between the opposite side edges of the web closer to the predetermined positional relationship.
2. (Original) A folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the correction section corrects a moving direction of the web by altering a tension of the web.
3. (Currently amended) A folding apparatus for folding in two a continuous web being continuous in a running direction of the web so that opposite side edges of the web are in a predetermined positional relationship with respect to each other, the apparatus comprising:
  - an abutting member provided so as to extend in the running direction between the opposite side edges of the web, wherein the abutting member abuts against the web to fold the web into a V or U shape;
  - a nipping member provided downstream of the abutting member for nipping the web folded by the abutting member so as to fold the web in two;
  - a contact section provided between an upstream end of the abutting member and the nipping member, the contact section including at least one roller for contacting an inner surface and/or an outer surface of the web being folded in the V or U shape;

a detecting section for detecting a reference portion of the web to be used as a reference in a web folding operation so as to output positional information regarding a position of the detected reference portion;

a driving section for changing a state of contact of the roller in the contact section and/or the abutting member with the web; and

a control section for controlling an action of the driving section based on the positional information by controlling at least one of an inclination angle or a revolution speed of the roller in the correction section while the roller is in contact with the web so as to bring a positional relationship between the opposite side edges of the web closer to the predetermined positional relationship.

4. (Currently amended) A method for producing a worn article, the method comprising the steps of:

placing an absorbent body on a surface of a web;

folding the web in two in a folding section so that opposite side edges of the web are close to or aligned with each other;

detecting a reference portion of the web to be used as a reference in a folding operation to generate positional information regarding a position of the detected reference portion;

correcting a path of the web based on the positional information so that the opposite side edges of the folded web are in a predetermined positional relationship with respect to each other by bringing a contact section into contact with the web in the folding section, wherein the contact section includes at least one roller in contact with the web and a control section for controlling at least one of an inclination angle or revolution speed of the at least one roller while the roller is in contact with the web;

bonding portions of the folded web to each other to form a bonded portion; and cutting the bonded web along the bonded portion.

5. (Original) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

placing an elastic member on a surface of the web; and

forming a hole to be a leg hole in the web.

6. (New) A folding apparatus comprising:

an abutting member extending in a running direction between opposite side edges of a continuous web, wherein the abutting member abuts against the web to fold the web into a V or U shape;

a nipping member downstream of the abutting member for nipping the web folded by the abutting member so as to fold the web in two;

a contact section between an upstream end of the abutting member and the nipping member for contacting an inner surface and/or an outer surface of the web being folded in the V or U shape; and

a detecting section for detecting a reference portion of the web to be used as a reference in a web folding operation so as to output positional information regarding a position of the detected reference portion,

wherein the folding apparatus controls an action of the contact section based on the positional information so as to bring a positional relationship between the opposite side edges of the web closer to a predetermined positional relationship,

wherein the contact section comprises a roller extending in a direction of an axis along a width direction of the web folded by the abutting member,

a driving section that changes an inclination angle of the axis of the roller with respect to the running direction of the web while the roller contacts the web folded in the V or U shape, each of the opposite side edges of the web spaced apart from each other, and

a control section that brings the positional relationship between the opposite side edges of the web closer to the predetermined positional relationship by changing an external force transmitted from the roller to the web and that controls the drive of the driving section based on the positional information outputted from the detecting section.

7. (New) A folding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the contact section comprises a first roller and a second roller, wherein the first roller and the

second roller contact a first and a second side surface of the web, standing face to face to each other, folded in the V or U shape by the abutting member.

8. (New) A folding apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first roller and the second roller are positioned along the first and second side surface of the web folded in the V or U shape by the abutting member such that the first roller and the second roller are closer together at a center of the web and further apart at the opposite side edges of the web.

9. (New) A method for producing a worn article, the method comprising the steps of:

- placing an absorbent body on a surface of a continuous web along a running direction of the web;

- folding the web in two in a folding section so that opposite side edges of the web are close to or aligned with each other;

- detecting a reference portion of the web to be used as a reference in a folding operation to generate positional information regarding a position of the detected reference portion;

- correcting a path of the web based on the positional information so that the opposite side edges of the folded web are in a predetermined positional relationship with respect to each other by bringing a contact section into contact with the web in the folding section;

- bonding portions of the folded web to each other to form a bonded portion; and
  - cutting the bonded web along the bonded portion,

- wherein the contact section uses a roller extending in a direction of an axis along a width direction of the web folded by the abutting member, and

- a driving section for changing an orientation of the roller so as to change an inclination angle of the axis of the roller with respect to the running direction of the web while the roller contacts the web folded in the V or U shape, spaced apart from each of the opposite side edges of the web, thereby correcting a path of the web based on the positional information so that the opposite side edges of the folded web are in the

predetermined positional relationship with respect to each other by changing an external force transmitted from the roller to the web.

10. (New) A method for producing a worn article according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

placing an elastic member on a surface of the web; and  
forming a hole to be a leg hole in the web.